



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/790,459

03/01/2004

Warren B. Cope

2673

9953

28004

7590

06/09/2008

SPRINT

6391 SPRINT PARKWAY

KSOPHT0101-Z2100

OVERLAND PARK, KS 66251-2100

EXAMINER

ZENATI, AMAL S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/09/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/790,459	COPE, WARREN B.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	AMAL ZENATI	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

2. Consider **Claims 1-35** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Calhoun et al (6,959,077 B1; hereinafter Calhoun)** in view of (“**Midwest Region: primer for Local Number Portability,**” Issue 2, p.1-31, 7/27/1997)

Consider **claims 1 and 19**, **Calhoun** clearly shows and discloses a method and a system of operating a communication system comprising: programming a first switch to terminate calls directed to at least one phone number (directory number) (col. 7, line 13-17; and claim 19); establishing a disaster (fault or disruption) recovery plan to terminate the at least one phone number at a second switch in response to the occurrence of a predetermined event (col. 7, line 17-46; and claim 19); in response to the occurrence of the predetermined event, programming a local copy of (Service Control Point /database) to direct communications for the at least one phone number to the second switch (col. 5, lines 1-10; col. 7, line 33-46; and claim 19); but **Calhoun** does not specifically state that the (Service Control Point (SCP) / database) was a *local number portability database (LNP)*. Yet, Examiner still believes that (SCP) /database is the (*LNP*) database because both the (SCP) / database of Calhoun’s invention and the *local*

number portability database are programmed (read a database for instructions on routing the communication), these instructions are activated in *response* to the occurrence of the event; therefore, both have the same features; Moreover, figure 1 in Calhoun invention has the same basic architecture of LNP (see the figure on page 12 of “**Midwest Region: primer for local Number Portability,**” **Issue 2, p.1-31, 7/27/1997**). However, if Calhoun does not use a LNP database as argued in the applicant remarks, Examiner still believes that it would have been obvious to use (*LNP*) database since the Federal Communications Commission (FCC’s) requires all Local Service Providers to use database method for number portability by December 31, 1998; As a result, using (*LNP*) database was well known in the art and it was required by (FCC’s).

In the same field of endeavor, (“**Midwest Region: primer for local Number Portability,**” **Issue 2, p.1-31, 7/27/1997**) clearly discloses that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC’s) requires all Local Service Providers using database method for number portability by December 31, 1998 (page 6, lines 1-8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply (*LNP*) database as taught by “**Midwest Region: primer for local Number Portability**” in Calhoun, in order to comply the regulation for using (*LNP*) as required by (FCC’s).

Consider **claims 2, 3, and 20, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, where the second switch is programmed to terminate calls to the at least one phone number (directory number) before the occurrence of the predetermined event and where the second switch is activated to terminate calls to the at least one phone number after the occurrence of the predetermined event (Calhoun: col. 5, line 13-25; and claim 19).

Consider **claim 4, 5, 21, and 22, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, where the local copy of the local number portability database directs communications for the at

least one phone number to the first switch before the occurrence of the predetermined event; and where the local copy of the local number portability database is queried whenever an on-net originating switch processes a call that will be terminated by on-net switch (Calhoun: col. 7, line 5- 16; and fig. 2).

Consider **claims 6, 7, 23, and 24, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, where the local copy of the local number portability database is queried whenever an on-net originating switch processes a call that will be terminated by on-net switch; and where the local of the local number portability database is queried when the request for a connection to an on-net switch comes from an off-net device (Calhoun: col. 6, line 60 -67; and fig. 1).

Consider **claims 8, 9, 25, and 26, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, where the predetermined event is when the first switch becomes disabled (col. 7, line 23-24); and where the programming of the local number portability database to direct communications for the at least one phone number to the second switch occurs automatically with determination that the first switch is disabled (col. 7, line 21-28).

Consider **claims 10 and 27, Calhoun** clearly shows and discloses the method and the communication system, where the second switch is located in a different geographic area than the first switch (Calhoun: abstract, line 19-23).

Consider **claims 11, 12, 28, and 29, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, where the at least one phone number is a phone number resulting from the translation of a toll free phone number (ten digit directory number); and where the at least one phone number can also be dialed directly (Calhoun: col. 3, line 54-61).

Consider **claims 13, 14, 30, and 31, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, where the programming the local number portability database is done from a web page (col. 8, claim 6); and where the second switch is changed to terminate calls to the at least one phone number using the web page (Calhoun: col. 8, claim 4).

Consider **claims 15 and 32, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, where the change made to the second switch is to activate the termination of pre-programmed numbers from the first switch (Calhoun: col. 7, line 33-41).

Consider **claims 16 and 33, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, where the communications for the at least one phone number is directed to the second switch by changing the location route number in the local number portability database (Calhoun: col. 8, claim 7, line 50-59).

Consider **claims 17 and 34, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, where the local number portability database is a local copy of the regional local number portability database and the local copy of the local number portability database is under the control of only 1 service provider (Calhoun: col. 8, line 19-21).

Consider **claims 18 and 35, Calhoun** clearly shows the method and the communication system, all the phone numbers actively terminated by the first switch are ported to the second switch (Calhoun: col. 7, line 38-43).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amal Zenati whose telephone number is (571)270-1947. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571- 571-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available

Art Unit: 2614

through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Fan Tsang/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614

Examiner Amal Zenati
/Amal S. Zenati/

June, 5, 2008